(b) if so, the quantum of rubber imported during the above period, company-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir. natural rubber is allowed for import under the Advance Licensing Scheme without payment of basic customs duty for manufacture and export of products where it is required as an input material.

(b) No separate data for import of any specific commodity, including natural rubber, is maintained company-wise, under the Advance Licensing Scheme. However, total quantities and values of imports of natural rubber (including natural rubber imported under the Advance Licensing Scheme) during the period 1995-96 and 1996-97 till June, 96 are as follows :

Period	Quantity in MT Quantity	Value in Rs. Lakhs Value
AM95-96	50728	27,582.73
1996-97 till June'96	3680	2,303.63

(Source : DGCI&S)

Looksan Tea Estate of TTCI

5604. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Looksan Tea Estate under Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (TTCI) is in deplorable condition;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to hand-over this Estate to any other organisations under his Ministry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to revive the above Tea Estate ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (e). There are five tea gardens with the Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (TTCI). All these gardens, including the Looksan Tea Estate, are suffering cash losses. In view of persistent losses suffered by these gardens it had been decided to dispose them of, including Looksan Tea Estate, throughout right sale. Following this, Looksan Tea Estate, was offered to M/s. Andrew Yule & Co. who were the highest bidder for the tea estate. The sale process could not however, be completed due to court cases and financial problems faced by Andrew Yule & Co.

Government are keen to complete the process of sale of the gardens including Looksan Tea Estate as early as possible and all possible steps are being taken to expedite the sale process. In the meanwhile, salaries/wages, rations etc. of the workers of Looksan Tea Estate have been paid by TTCI upto August, 1996.

[Translation]

Setting up of Export Promotion Parks in U.P.

5605. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated by the Government for setting up Export Promotion Industrial Parks in Uttar Pradesh during 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) the estimated cost of the above parks and the extent of State Governments participation therein; and

(c) the details of objectives of these Parks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Allocation of funds for setting of Export Promotion Industrial Parks (EPIPS) is not made state-wise. An amount of Rs. 91 lakhs was released in 1995-96 to Government of Uttar Pradesh for the EPIP at Surajpur-Kasna, Greater Noida. No proposal has so far been received, on the basis of pogress of implementation for release of Central Grant during 1996-97.

(b) The project proposal of the Government of Uttar Pradesh envisages the share of State Government, in the total estimated cost of the Park of Rs. 20.19 crores, to be Rs. 5.19 crores.

(c) The objectives of the EPIP include involving the State Governments in export efforts and building up of infrastructure facilities for export oriented production.

[English]

Delicensing of Liquor Industry

5606. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to delicense the liquor industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No,Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Loan from Financial Institutions for Industrial Growth in Assam

5607. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the financial assistance from the All India Financial Institutions for the industrial growth in the State of Assam has been on the decline over the years;